



City of San Diego
Water Department
600 B Street, Suite 1300
San Diego, CA 92101

San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

County of San Diego
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 209
San Diego, CA 92101

January 31, 2007

Lester Snow, Director
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Director Snow:

In 2005, three agencies - the city of San Diego, the county of San Diego, and the San Diego County Water Authority - signed an MOU forming the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) for the San Diego region. This group was established to work with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders throughout the region to develop the first ever San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM Plan), and to submit a Proposition 50 Grant Application. With the assistance of a Regional Advisory Committee comprised of 25 representatives from the key stakeholders involved in integrated water management planning, we have made tremendous progress towards the goals of Integrated Regional Water Management Planning. We will release a draft IRWM Plan in March, adopt the plan in mid-2007, and had expected to participate as a region in the Proposition 50, Cycle 2, Grant Application process.

Our agencies and our region are very troubled by the recent Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff proposal to summarily abandon the Proposition 50, Cycle 2, Grant Application process in favor of awarding grant funding to the nine proposals that were not selected during Step 2 of Cycle 1. We strongly oppose this proposal. The proposal is inconsistent with the November 2004 Grant Program Guidelines. The 2004 guidelines were prepared with extensive stakeholder input and clearly state that there would be two open and competitive funding cycles. Agencies have invested significant staff time and large sums of money in reliance upon these published program guidelines and schedules. Changing the rules of the program in the middle of the funding process is grossly unfair to regions such as San Diego and unjustly denies us of an opportunity to compete for these funds.

In addition, the San Diego RWMG strongly opposes any proposal to combine Proposition 50 and Proposition 84 funds. The funds must be kept separate, and the state must recognize the will of the voters in passing both measures. The process for funding must provide fair access for all regions of the state to both sources of funding, as has always been the stated intention of DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

Mr. Lester Snow
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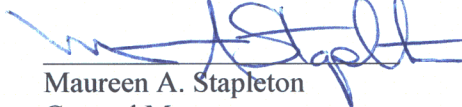
The San Diego RWMG strongly urges DWR and the SWRCB to follow the established guidelines for distribution of Proposition 50 grant funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

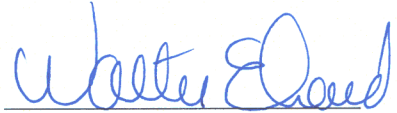
Sincerely,



J. M. Barrett
Water Department Director
City of San Diego
619-533-7555



Maureen A. Stapleton
General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority
858-522-6781



Walter F. Ekard
Chief Administrative Officer
County of San Diego
619-531-6226

cc: San Diego County State Legislative Delegation
Tracie Billington, Department of Water Resources
Shahla Faranak, State Water Resources Control Board
San Diego RWMG – Regional Advisory Committee Members:
Craig Adams, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Kirk Ammerman, City of Chula Vista
Meleah Ashford, Consultant
Michael Bardin, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Chris Basilevac, The Nature Conservancy
Dennis Bostad, Sweetwater Authority
Neal Brown, Padre Dam Municipal Water District
Michael Connolly, Campo Kumeyaay Nation
Kathy Flannery, County of San Diego
Linda Flournoy, Sustainability Consultant
Karen Franz, San Diego Coastkeeper/Bay Council
Doug Gibson, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation
Megan Johnson, Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project
Eric Larson, San Diego County Farm Bureau
Keith Lewinger, Fallbrook Public Utility District
Judy Mitchell, Mission Resource Conservation District
Rich Pyle, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
Marsi Steirer, City of San Diego
Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Shelby Tucker, San Diego Association of Governments
Susan Varty, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Ken Weinberg, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Weston, Helix Water District
Dr. Richard Wright, San Diego State University